SALAATUL JANAAZAH
(THE FUNERAL PRAYER)

1. The Janaazah Salaat is in fact a Duaa (prayer and supplication) on behalf of the dead.

2. The Shuroot (conditions) of other Salaats are applicable to Janaazah Salaat as well.

3. The Mayyit (the dead) should be placed in front of those performing the Salaatul Janaazah. The Imam should stand in line with the breast of the Mayyit.

4. Two things are Fardh in Salaatul Janaazah, viz:
   a. To recite "Allaahu Akbar' four times.
   b. Qiyaam – to perform the Janaazah Salaat standing.
   There is no Ruku, Sajdah, etc in Salaatul Janaazah.

5. Three things are Sunnat in Salaatul Janaazah, viz
   a. Hamd to recite the Praises of Allaah Ta'ala.
   b. Durood upon Rasulullaah ρ.
   c. Duaa for the Mayyit.

6. Jamaat (congregation) is not a condition for the validity of Salaatul Janaazah. Hence, if even one person man or woman performs it, the Fardh obligation is discharged.

7. The method of performing Salaatul Janaazah: -
   a. The Mayyit should be placed in front with the Imam standing in line with the Mayyit's chest.
   b. It is Mustahab to form 3 rows behind the Imam. If there are only 7 people 1 of them being Imam, 3 should stand in the first Saff, 2 in the second Saff and 1 in the third Saff.
   c. The following Niyyat is then recited (or an intention is made in the mind): "I make Niyyat of performing Salaatul Janaazah for Allaah Ta'ala and as a Dua for the deceased."

d. After Niyyat recite “Allaahu Akbar” and raise hands to the ears (as in other Salaats) and fold as usual then recite Thana:
   “Glory unto You Allaah! All praise for You. Blessed is Your name and Most High is Your Majesty. There is none worthy of worship but You.”
e. After Thana, recite again “Allaahu Akbar” once, but do not raise the hands. After this Takbeer recite Durood e Ebrahim :
   “Oh Allaah! Send Your mercy on Muhammad ρ and on his seeds as You sent thy mercy on Ebrahim and his seeds. No doubt! You are Great and Praiseworthy! Oh Allaah! send Your blessings on Muhammad (S.A.W) and on his seeds as You have blessed Ebrahim and his seeds. No doubt! You are Great and Praiseworthy! Oh Allaah! send Your blessings on Muhammad ρ and on his seeds as You have blessed Ebrahim and his seeds. No doubt! You are Great and Praiseworthy.”
f. After Durood e Ebrahim recite “Allaahu Akbar” once (do not raise the hands), and recite a Duaa for the Mayyit if a Baaligh (of age) male and female recite the following Duaa.

اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَشَاهِدِنَا وَغَائِبِنَا
وَصَغِيْرِنَا وَكَبِيْرِنَا وَذَكَرِنَا وَاُنْثَانَا. اَللّٰهُمَّ مَنْ
اَحْيَيْتَهٗ مِنَّا فَاَحْيِهٖ عَلَى الْاِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ
تَوَفَّيْتَهٗ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهٗ عَلَى الْاِيْمَانِ.

“Oh Allaah, forgive our living and dead, present and absent, big and small men and women. Oh Allaah, whoever among us, is kept alive, by You, let him be kept alive on the path of Islaam and to whom You cause to die, let him die with Islaamic faith.”

If the deceased is not a Baaligh (under age) boy recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ لَنَا فَرَطًا وَّاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا
اَجْرًا وَّ ذُخْرًا وَّاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا شَافِعًا وَّ مُشَفَّعًا ط

"Oh Allaah, make this child a source of our salvation and the pain of his parting a source of reward and benefit for us. Make him a recommendation for us and the recommendation, which You have accepted."

If the deceased is not a Baaligh girl, recite the same Duaa as for a Na Baaligh boy but recite on all three places
"Aj Alha" instead of "Aj Alhu"

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْهَا لَنَا فَرَطًا وَّ اجْعَلْهَا لَنَا
اَجْرًا وَّ ذُخْرًا وَّاجْعَلْهَا لَنَا شَافِعَةً وَّ مُشَفَّعَةً ط

g. After the Duaa, recite again once, "Allaahu Akbar'. Again do not raise the hands. After this fourth Takbeer make the Salaam as is done in other Salaats.

8. The Imaam recites the four Takbeers and the Salaams aloud and the Muqtadis silently.

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The Height of The Grave
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1.) It is noted in, “Shariat Ya Jihaalat”, of Muhammad Palan Haqqani on P609, that Hadhrat Ali τ advised Hadhrat Abdul Haiyaj Azaadi ψ to do what Rasulullaah ρ advised him to do, i.e. to level high graves:-

- a.) Tirmidhi: Vol.1 P.2 Hadith No.954:-
- b.) Muslim: Vol.1 P156
- c.) Abu Dawood: Vol.2 P581
- d.) Nisai: Vol.1 P493
- e.) Mishkaat: Vol.1 P296
- f.) Mazahair Haqq: Vol.2 P56

2.) It is stated in – “Death and Burial of a Muslim”, P17. “The shape of the Qabr when filled should be like the hump of a camel. The height should be approximately 25 to 30 cm. This is the correct view which can be substantiated adequately.

3.) It is written in ‘Guide lines for funeral rites and allied matters’ (Published by the Holy Quraan Society of Pakistan). “It is desirable to raise the grave like the hump of a camel. The grave should be about a foot high from the surface of the earth.” (12-30 cm).

4.) It is stated in -‘ Death and Inheritance, the Islamic way’ by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Hay Aarfi (Karachi)- P87. “Grave height readily measured by extending the thumb and the little finger horizontally – tip to tip.” [Bahisti-Gauhar].

5.) It is recorded in Bahisti Zewar- Part 2 P204 of Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi’s ψ, #27, “It is Makrooh-e-Tahrimi to have the grave very much higher than one span. It is Makrooh to plaster or cement the grave. One span measured by extending the thumb and little finger horizontally (+_30cm).

6.) To flatten and level what is more than one span is necessary. Mazahaie Haqq Vol.2 P 56.

7.) In ‘Khair-ul-Fatawaa’ Vol.2 P 56, it is stated that the height of the grave should be one “balish” (one span as explained earlier with ref. from (Fatawa Alamgari – Vol.1 P85)

8.) In “Aap Ki Masaail Aur in Ka Hal”, by Moulana Yusuf Ludhanvi ψ, Vol.3 P112 it is stated that Qasim bin Muhammad ψ, nephew of Hadhrat Ayesha τ requested her to take him to the graves of Rasulullaah ρ and Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ. This was done and he saw that the graves were neither high nor flat. (Abu Dawood, Mishkaat P.149).

9.) See also, ‘Ahsaan-ul-Fatawa’. Vol.4 P189-191, for construction of structures on graves by Mufti Abdur Rasheed Ahmed ψ of Karachi.

10.) See also ‘Kifatul-Mufti’ Vol.4 P45 by Mufti Muhammad Kifatullaah ψ.

11.) See also ‘Fatawa Mahmoodia’Vol2P405 by Mufti Mahmoodul Hassan Ganghoiψ

12.) See also ‘Fatawa Darul Uloom’ Vol.5 P377/8.

13.) See also ‘Kitaabul-Azhaar’ – Imam Muhammad ψ, P96/7, op.cit, by Moulana Muhammad Hanif Yazdani, in ‘Ziyaarat Qabar Ka Shaari Tarika’.

Summary: The grave should be (12 to 30 cm) from ground surface level.
May Allaah grant us the ability to act upon Shariat. Afzal Hoosen Elias (Mufti).